SIR Benjamin Rudyerd HIS SPEECH IN THE HIGH COVRT OF PARLIAMENT

The 17. of *February*, for a ſpeedy Treaty of PEACE with

His Majeſtie.

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Sir *Benjamin Rudyerd* his Speech in the High Court of Parliament, the 17. of *February*, for a ſpeedy Treaty of Peace with his *Majeſty*.

Mr Speaker,

I *Do verily beleeve, That the Vote we have already paſs'd for the Diſbanding the Armies the firſt and tenth of* March, *will finde us no farther on our way, then where we now are, beſides the ill Accidents that may hap-*

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pen, and ſo much precious time ſpent, as till then.

Sir, The Main Buſineſſe is, whether we ſhall have a preſent Treatie or no? and this concerns us in all that we Have, and Are. Since we Refuſed a Treaty at Nottingham, I doe not find that we have gotten much ground, although our Army then was freſh, full, and full paid; the People erect, bountifull, and forward to the warre. Now, the Diſpoſition of the Kingdome, for the greateſt part, ſtands bent towards a Peace: ſo that whereſoever the Refuſall, or Delay of the way to it ſhall be fixt, the Diſadvantage will fall on that ſide. How cleare ſoever the Intentions of the Houſe are, yet abroad it will be taken but as a ſhew without Reality,

and so it will be returned upon us.

For the Propositions, I have not known, nor heard, that all the Propositions in any Treaty of Importance, were ever swallowed whole. If some be harsh and rough, they may be wrought and suppled by wise Treaters, made fit for an acceptable agreement. If other be unpassable, they may be totally rejected. Those that are our unquestionable Rights, may be so claim'd, and held.

Mr Speaker, We have already tasted the bitter bloudy fruits of warre, we are growne exceedingly behind-hand with our selves since we began it: if we persist, there will such a confluence of Mischiefs break in upon us, as I am afraid will ruin the King, the Kingdome, the Nation, unlesse God

be mercifull to us, and doe ſtep in with a great Miracle, for a little one will not ſerve our turne.

I have long and thoughtfully expected, that the cup of trembling which hath gone round about us to other Nations, would at length come in amongſt us. It is now come at laſt, and we may drink the Dreggs of it, the worſt; which God divert.

There is yet ſome comfort left, that our Miſeries are not likely to laſt long. For, we cannot fight here as they doe in Germany, *in that great, large, vaſt continent: where although there be warre in ſome parts of it, yet there are many other remote quiet places, for trade and tillage to ſupport it. We muſt fight as in a Cock-pit, we are ſurrounded with the ſea. We have*

no

no ſtronger Holds, then our owne Sculls, and our own Ribs, to keep out our enemies; ſo that the whole Kingdome will ſuddenly be but one flame.

It hath been ſaid in this Houſe, that we are bound in conſcience to puniſh the ſhedding of innocent bloud: but Sir, who ſhall be anſwerable for all the innocent bloud which ſhall be ſpilt hereafter, if we doe not endeavour a Peace, by a ſpeedy Treaty? Certainly, God is as much to be truſted in a Treatie, as in a warre: it is He that gives wiſdome to treat, as well as courage to fight, and ſucceſſe to both, as it pleaſeth Him. Bloud is a crying ſinne, it pollutes a land: why ſhould wee defile this land any longer?

Wherefore

Wherefore Mr Speaker, Let
stint Blood as soon as we can. Let
agree with our Adversaries in th
way, by a present, short, wary
Treaty. God direct us.

FINIS.

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